

Petrie and Quibell on the desert surface are, just like the Abu Shahrein flints, not to be distinguished from many of those in this Museum found by Seton-Karr on the surface of the Theban plateau, and in the Wady el Sheikh mines; and that as many of the plateau implements have been found in close association with nodules and the flakes struck from them, it seems impossible to believe that these could remain (even in a single instance) undisturbed from the palæolithic days of Europe to the present time, when the forest under which they were made, and the forest soil on which they reposed have been entirely carried away. This reasoning applied to the Somaliland implements shows that they must be of an age much more recent than palæolithic, and probably even comparatively recent.

The conclusions it seems to me, legitimate to draw from a study of the collection here described, are that rude and palæolithic forms, amount and depth of patina, and surface condition are characters which cannot be depended on to fix the date of stone implements when there is no possibility of determining the geological age of the strata whence they have come, and in the absence of associated faunistic remains. Also, that the similarity, and even identity, of form in the stone implements of two widely separated localities are of themselves insufficient evidence of contact between the races who made them. And, likewise, that none of the surface "palæolithic" implements from Egypt and Somaliland have yet been clearly proved to belong to that period, while the probability is that the bulk of them are of much later date.

The only flint implements from Egypt known to me to have yet been found embedded undoubtedly in position, were discovered by General Pitt-Rivers in the stratified, indurated, gravelly *debris* at the mouth of a wady—the Babel Molook—near the Tombs of the Kings, which all geologists who know the spot, agree must have been deposited far back in pre-historic times. Doubt has been thrown, however, by a distinguished, but on this question supposed by some to be a somewhat biassed, geologist (the late Sir William Dawson) on the really artificial character of the flints. The General has, however, recently re-staked his great archæological reputation on their being truly human productions. The evidence of the palæolithic* age of man in Egypt would appear, therefore, to rest for the moment on the flakes and very rude scraper-like flints, found in the Babel Molook gravels.

Contributions to the Zoology of North Queensland.

BY HERBERT C. ROBINSON, M.B.O.U.

Trichoglossus novæ-hollandiæ, subsp. septentrionalis, subsp. nov.—*Trichoglossus, T. novæ-hollandiæ*, affinis, sed magnitudine parvâ, capite et plagâ abdominali late azureis, nec purpurascensibus, facile distinguendus.

	Long. tot.	Al.	Caud.
<i>Trichoglossus septentrionalis</i> .	233-250	140-144	113-123 mm.
„ <i>novæ-hollandiæ</i> .	304-320	153-163	140-163 mm.
(5 specimens).			

Habitat. North Queensland (Cooktown).

It seems curious that the marked difference in size between northern and southern specimens of *T. novæ-hollandiæ* should have been (as far as I am aware) overlooked.†

* These implements were originally described in 1881 in the *Journal of the Anthropological Institute* by General Pitt-Rivers as neolithic, but they were somewhat later referred by him to the palæolithic age.

† Since these notes were in type, Mr. Hartert has observed in his article *On the Birds of Cape York* (Novit. Zool., vi., p. 428, 1899) that specimens before him from that locality are smaller and brighter coloured.

Dr. Mivart's figure (Mon. Loriidae, pl. xxxv. p. 109, 1898) has, in my opinion, been drawn from the above-described form.

Dacelo gigas (Bodd.).—From the same locality as the above have been received three specimens of a *Dacelo*, marked as *males* by the collector, so differing from typical *D. gigas* in their smaller dimensions as to constitute in all probability a distinct race, as shown below:—

	Long. tot.	Al.	Caud.	Rostr. a rict.
<i>Dacelo</i> , sp. . . .	378-385	195-201	140-143	74-78 mm.
<i>Dacelo gigas</i> . .	425-450	212-230	157-164	77-94 mm.

(8 specimens).

In addition, there is no blue whatever on the rump, or on the primaries and secondaries. At first sight, these specimens might be taken for the immature stage of *D. gigas*, but this I do not think is the case, as in one specimen, which has commenced its moult, the new primaries show no trace whatever of blue. Should the receipt of further specimens prove this to be the case, the subspecies might be known as *D. gigas*, subsp. *minor*.

Both this form and *D. leachii* breed at Cooktown.

On the range of *Prionodura newtoniana*, De Vis.—When first described, this Bower bird was supposed to be confined to the higher altitudes of the Bellenden-Ker ranges and the thick scrubs to the north of Cardwell and round Herberton. Recently it has been observed on Mt. Peter Botte, some 50 miles south of Cooktown (*cf.* Le Souef, *Victorian Naturalist*, March-April, 1897; *Ibis*, 1897, p. 619).

The Derby Museum has, a short time since, received a *male*, shot on 28th May, 1899, within the limits of the municipality of Cooktown. The collector, who has lived many years in the district, states that it is the first he has ever seen in this neighbourhood. Whether the species is really a native of the district, or whether the individual in question had been driven from its usual habitat by the great cyclone which raged a short time previously to its capture, remains to be proved.

On a New Species of *Aplonis*, in the Derby Museum, from Santa Cruz Island, in the Western Pacific.

BY HENRY O. FORBES, LL.D.

MY friend, Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, recently requested me to submit to him the type of *Aplonis rufipennis* of Layard (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1881, p. 542), which is in the Tristram Collection in this Museum. This specimen was originally preserved in alcohol, and it was probably on that account that Canon Tristram believed the colour to be faded, and determined two specimens from Santa Cruz Island as identical with *A. rufipennis* from Efate Island in the New Hebrides. Dr. Sharpe, however, tells me that the typical specimen is not very much faded, and that it agrees with two others recently sent by Captain A. M. Farquhar from Ambrym and Espiritu Santo, and, further, that the Santa Cruz birds (Tristr. Coll. 18117 jr., 18118 ♀ Type) are different. I, therefore, propose to describe them as

Aplonis maxwellii, n. sp.

Aplonis similis *A. rufipennis*, sed grisescenti-brunneus, pileo saturate brunneo-striato; genis et corpore subtus schistaceis, minime ochraceo-fulvis, hypochondriis rufescentibus, subcaudalibus castaneis distinguenda. Long. tot., 7.5; culm., 0.95; alæ, 4.2; caudæ, 2.45; tarsi, 1.2.

I have much pleasure in dedicating this species to Mr. Maxwell Hyslop-Maxwell, Jr., the Chairman of the Museum Extension Committee of the City Council.